

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6172
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UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1440

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SF, UK, TUC
SUBJECT: BRITISH TUC SUPPORT FOR BLACK UNIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

1. SUMMARY; ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN THE JUNE 3 EDITION OF THE GARMENT WORKER, WHICH IS THE WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE GARMENT WORKERS UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA, THE ICFTU SPONSORED WEEK OF ACTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA HAS INFLUENCED THE VIEWS OF MAJOR BRITISH EMPLOYERS OPERATING IN THE REPUBLIC. THE BRITISH TRADE UNION COUNCIL (TUC) IS CONTINUING ITS CAMPIAGN OF SUPPORT FOR BLACK TRADE UNIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. QUOTE: THE INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION ON SOUTH AFRICA HAS INFLUENCED THE VIEWS OF MAJOR BRITISH EMPLOYERS OPERATING IN THE REPUBLIC. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TOO HAVE MADE IT KNOWN PUBLICLY THAT THEY SHARE THE CONCERN OF BRITISH TRADE UNIONISTS OVER THE RECENT BANNING OF INDIVIDUAL TRADE UNIONISTS IN SOUTH AFRICA - ONE OF THE ISSUES MUCH PUBLICISED DURING THE WEEK OF ACTION.
IN A SPECIALLY-PREPARED LEAFLET, THE TUC URGE TRADE UNIONISTS TO TELL EMPLOYERS WHO USE, SELL, HANDLE OR TRANSPORT SOUTH AFRICAN PRODUCTS, OR WHO SELL TO OR ARE IN BUSINESS IN SOUTH

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AFRICA, THAT THE OVERWHELEMING MAJORITY OF SOUTH AFRICAN WORKERS ARE SHUT OUT OF THE OFFICIAL SYSTEM FOR NEGOTIATING WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS.
MANY WHITE PEOPLE HELPING BLACK WORKERS TO PUT THEIR INDUSTRIAL CASE HAVE BEEN BANNED.
BRITISH BUSINESS INVESTING IN, TRADING WITH, AND USING, HANDLING AND DEALING IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRODUCTS STAND TO

LOSE IF MATTERS ARE NOT PUT RGHT - AND QUICKLY.

BRITISH WORKERS STAND TO LOSE, TOO..

THE LEAFLET URGES TRADE UNIONISTS TO GET THEIR EMPLOYER TO
PUT THE MESSAGE OVER TO HIS OWN TRADE ASSOCIATION AND TO
ALL HIS TRADE ASSOCIATES IN THE U.K. AND ABROAD.

" REMIND HIM THE BLACK UNIONS ARE WITHIN THE LAW". IT SAYS.

" THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS SAID SO, AND AN EMPLOYER
IS WELL WITHIN HIS RIGHTS IN RECOGNIZING A UNION OF BLACK
WORKERS AND NEGOTIATING WITH IT.

'AND IF YOUR EMPLOYER IS IN BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA, PRESS
HIM TO GO ON RECORD IN FAVOUR OF RECOGNIZING BLACK UNIONS, AND
NEGOTIATING WITH THEM' UNQUOTE. KIRBY

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